

28 January 1958

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Secretary of Ad Hoc Committee on Exchanges, [REDACTED]

THROUGH: Chief, Economic Research, ORR

THROUGH: Chief, Industrial Division

THROUGH: Chief, Intelligence Information Staff, ORR

FROM: Chief, Consumer Industries Branch

SUBJECT: Recommendation on Proposal of the Social Security Administration for an Exchange of Delegations with the USSR

REFERENCE: Memorandum from Director, Office of Intelligence Resources and Coordination, Department of State, dated 20 January 1958


1. This branch is interested in consumer expenditures and consumer welfare in the USSR. Both social security and social insurance expenditures in the Soviet budget affect consumer welfare. At present we have little information on the distribution and financing of these expenditures. Certain parts of these funds directly affect health and education, subjects for which this branch is responsible. A major part of social insurance is financed as a deduction from wages, constituting a "consumer expenditure" amounting to six to seven percent of the USSR's wage bill. Our interest in the USSR's system lies in the extent and types of coverage and the flow of funds rather than in methods of processing data. The possibility exists that information on population and the labor force in different sectors of the Soviet economy may be derived from such information.

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3. It is suggested that this proposed delegation visit the Ministry of Finance, Minister A. G. Zverev; the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions, Chairman V. Grishin; the State Commission of Labor and Wages, Chairman A. P. Volkov; Central Statistical Administration, V. N. Starovskiy; and Ministry of Culture, N. A. Mikhaylov.


4. We believe that a USSR delegation would learn nothing in the US that is not readily available elsewhere.

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